

August 27, 2014

Mansfield Middle School Parents/Guardians:

Mansfield Middle School continues its efforts to enhance communication with parents/guardians. To this end, you will have the ability to view your child's grades, attendance and lunch transactions securely via the Internet using the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Additionally, students will also receive their own login and password so they may sign in and independently view their grades. It should be noted that only students in grades five through eight will have data accessible via the Portal.

You have access to the Parent Portal via the District's website. You will be able to create a parent account and then link your child(ren) to your account using the unique Access ID and Access Password for each child. Your child's Access ID, Access Password, directions, copy of the Acceptable Use Agreement and return receipt are included with this letter. Please return to your child's homeroom teacher the receipt acknowledging that you have received the letter and information regarding access to the Parent Portal. Please keep your password(s) confidential so only you will have access to the information. If at any time you believe your password has been compromised, please contact us.

Please visit our school website for helpful Parent Portal how-to demonstration videos and FAQs (<http://mansfieldct.gov/mms>) click on the link for "Parent Portal" under the "For Parents" menu.

There are a few details regarding the Parent Portal that we wish to highlight for you. As time is needed to thoughtfully grade assignments, up to 2 weeks from the date the assignment was due may pass until the assignment appears in the Portal. Teachers will also be afforded an additional week for score entry of lengthier assignments. It is also important to note that at the beginning of a quarter there are fewer grades so an overall average can be skewed by one assignment or the lack of assignments in a certain category (for example, if participation or tests or projects have not been graded yet). Due to the nature and structure of some classes (i.e. PE, Tech Ed, FCS, Art); those classes may naturally reflect fewer graded assignments than other classes. Additionally, the Grade 6 World Languages experience will post mid-quarter and end of quarter "S" scale scores in the grade book. Courses that provide individualized programming will not post assignments in the grade book. Those classes will continue to provide parents with individualized progress reporting in the format presently used.

Assignment grades are just one part of a student's performance among many other factors that are also important. The Portal is one more way to support proactive communication, but grades are not the only component of a child's experience in school. We trust that the Parent Portal will improve communication while not becoming the sole focus.

We also want to assure you that opening the Parent Portal does not preclude students from receiving the feedback customarily received from teachers regarding their academic progress. We hope that you find the Parent Portal useful as you support your children in their middle school experience. Should you have any questions or find yourself in need of support in the setup of your parent account, please contact the MMS office.

Sincerely,

Candace Morell  
Principal

Larry Barlow  
Assistant Principal

